

Message Text

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62/45

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 NSC-10

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O 291111 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2318

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 SAIGON 9445

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TO SUMMARY PARA ONE AND PART II
PARAS ONE AND TWO)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS

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SUBJECT: VIETNAM CEASEFIRE SITUATION REPORT - MAY 29, 1973

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

THIS REPORT SUMMARIZES ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE EMBASSY AS OF 1800 MAY 29.

SUMMARY: HUNGDEL/ POLDEL PARTIALLY RETREATED FROM THEIR EARLIER
POSITION THAT ICCS PLENARY AGENDA MUST BE AGREED TO UNANIMOUSLY
AT MAY 28 PLENARY SESSION, THUS BACKING AWAY FROM ISSUE WHICH
BROKE UP MAY 25 SESSION. HUNGDEL/ POLDEL STILL RESERVED THEIR
POSITION FOR THE FUTURE, HOWEVER, LEAVING POSSIBILITY THAT ISSUE
MIGHT BE RAISED AGAIN SHOULD THEY WISH TO BLOCK PLENARY ACTIVITIES.
HUNGDEL/ POLDEL DID USE ARGUMENT CONCERNING LACK OF UNANIMITY
TO BLOCK SUBMISSION OF THREE INTERROGATION REPORTS OF NVA
PRISONERS TO TPJMC. TPJMC MEETING WAS NOT PARTICULARLY
PRODUCTIVE, HOWEVER, LTC LE TRUNG HIEN, ARVN PRESS SPOKESMAN,
ANNOUNCED AT MAY 29 PRESS BRIEFING THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED THAT
NEXT WEEK RVN AND PRG WILL EXCHANGE MAPS SHOWING AREAS CONTROLLED
BY MILITARY UNITS OF EACH SIDE. FPJMT/ MIA NEGOTIATIONS
PROCEEDED SLOWLY. FIGHTING REMAINED AT A LOW LEVEL IN MR 1.
THE GVN IS CONTINUING ITS PROGRAM OF RESETTLING REFUGEES IN
QUANG NGAI PROVINCE, BUT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT
THE VC ARE STRENGTHENING LOCAL FORCES IN ORDER TO CONTEND
THIS GVN PROGRAM MORE SUCCESSFULLY. COMBAT WAS ALSO MINIMAL
IN MR 2. MG TOAN, MR 2 COMMANDER, IN CONVERSATION WITH US
OFFICERS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FULL ALERT STATUS WILL CONTINUE IN
MR 2 INTO JUNE. TOAN ALSO DISCUSSED THE FIGHTING IN THE KONTUM
AREA, IMPLYING THAT HE HAD ORDERED THE EARLIER TROOP COMMANDER
TALKS IN THAT AREA HALTED. MR 3 CONTINUED TO HAVE MILITARY ACTION
AT A RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL. MR 4, HOWEVER, SAW A RISE IN THE
LEVEL OF COMBAT. THE VI THANH GVN JMC SCORED A MINOR POINT BY
INVITING ALL FOUR CHIPDELS TO MEET A "SURPRISE" VISITOR WHO TURNED
OUT TO BE AN NVA OFFICER CAPTURED ON MAY 20. THE ANGRY POLES AND
HUNGARIANS WITHDREW FROM THE SCENE AS SOON AS THE TRICKERY BECAME
APPARENT. END SUMMARY.

PART I: ICCS

1. ICCS PLENARY SESSION OF MAY 28 WAS CONTINUATION OF 66 TH

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PLENARY WHICH MET MAY 25 AND HAD ADJOURNED WITHOUT RESOLVING
PROCEDURAL DISPUTE WHETHER OR NOT PLENARY AGENDA REQUIRED

UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT. FACED BY FIRM CANDEL/ INDODEL OPPOSITION
AND, AFTER HAVING APPARENTLY CONSULTED WITH THEIR CAPITALS,
HUNGDEL/ POLDEL RATHER MEEKLY RETREATED FROM EARLIER POSITION

AND AGREED MAY 28 TO AGENDA ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MEETING
MAY 23. THIS AGENDA INCLUDED CONSIDERATION OF THREE
INTERROGATION REPORTS OF NVA PRISONERS WHICH HUNGDEL/ POLDEL
DID NOT WANT ICCS COMMISSION TO HANDLE. IN AGREEING TO
AGENDA, HUNGDEL/ POLDEL RESERVED THEIR POSITION FOR THE FUTURE,
LEAVING DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT HUNGDEL/ POLDEL MIGHT RAISE

ISSUE AGAIN TO BLOCK PLENARY ACTIVITIES.

2. COMMISSION THEN CONSIDERED REPORT FROM REGION VII
CONCERNING ICCS MARKINGS ON HELICOPTERS USED BY VNAF.
SUB- REGIONAL ICCS TEAM HAD SEEN CHOPPED PARTIALLY PAINTED
OVER BUT STILL CARRYING DESIGNATION " ICCS" ON THE BELLY.
ACCORDING TO UNANIMOUS REPORT, TEAM HAD WRITTEN TO
LOCAL VNAF COMMANDER AND HAD RECEIVED APOLOGIES AND
ASSURANCE CHOPPER WOULD BE REPAINTED IMMEDIATELY. HUNGDEL
INTRODUCED REPORT OF SIMILAR CASE IN PLEIKU AREA. BOTH
REPORTS AND DRAFT COVERING LETTER TO TPJMC WILL BE DISCUSSED
AT NEXT PLENARY. EMBASSY COMMENT: WE HAVE REQUESTED
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ACTION EA-13

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O 291111 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2319

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AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

CINCPAC

CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACTHAI

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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PART IV: VC/ HANOI PROPAGANDA:

LIBERATION RADIO REPORTED ON MAY 27 THAT THE " PEOPLE' S

REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEE AND COMPATRIOTS OF LOC NINH DISTRICT CAPITAL HAVE DECIDED TO BUILD A STATUE OF UNCLE HO AND A TEMPLE IN HIS MEMORY" ON A HILL OVERLOOKING ROUTE 13. BEHIND THE TEMPLE THERE IS TO BE A MUSEUM DEPICTING IN " PICTURES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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OBJECTS" THE " HEROIC TRADITIONS" OF THE PEOPLE' S STRUGGLE AGAINST THE " AGGRESSORS". (EMBASSY COMMENT: A MUSEUM IN LOC NINH IS A FAR CRY FROM " HO CHI MINH CITY" (I. E. SAIGON) BUT THE COMMUNISTS, PERFORCE, MUST MAKE TO WITH WHAT THEY HAVE. END COMMENT.)

PART V: CEASFIRE VIOLATIONS:

OFFICIAL VIETNAM PRESS COUNT OF COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS NEARED 15,000 WITH A TOTAL OF 14,993 LISTED AS OF 0800 MAY 28. THESE VIOLATIONS HAVE RESULTED IN 21,141 COMMUNIST TROOPS KILLED AND 215 CAPTURED WITH 1,356 CREW- SERVED AND 6,643 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS SEIZED. RVNAF CASUALTIES ARE NOW 5,410 KIA, 25,934 WIA AND 1,346 MIA. CIVILIANS HAVE SUFFERED 932 KILLED, 2,560 WOUNDED AND 1,213 ABDUCTED BY THE VC.

PART VI MR 1

1. THE LEVEL OF COMBAT REMAINED LOW WITH 15 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS REPORTED, INCLUDING 2 GROUND ATTACKS, 10 ATTACKS BY FIRE (ABF) WITH 95 MORTAR ROUNDS, AND 3 HARASSING INCIDENTS. THIRD REG., FIRST DIV., RECEIVED 2 ABF' S IN THE VICINITY OF KIM QUY WEST OF HUE. THE 61 ST RANGER BATTALION RECEIVED AN ABF AND SKIRMISHED WITH THE ENEMY SOUTH OF NGHIA HANH DISTRICT TOWN, QUANG NGAI, RESULTING IN 4 FRIENDLY WIA AND 5 ENEMY KIA. REGION- WIDE CASUALTIES WERE, FRIENDLY: 1 KIA, 10 WIA; ENEMY: 22 KIA, 3 RETURNEES. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED A TOTAL OF 1519 ROUNDS, 398 NORTH OF HAI VAN PASS 1121 SOUTH.

2. POLOFF QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT ON MAY 24-25 SOME 5000 REFUGEES RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGES (RTV) IN EASTERN BINH SON DISTRICT, ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS NORTH- NORTHEAST OF QUANG NGAI CITY. SINCE ROADS TO THIS AREA HAVE NOT YET BEEN SECURED, THE REFUGEES TRAVELLED BY SAMPAN FROM BINH SON DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS DOWN THE TRA BONG RIVER AND THEN DOWN THE COAST. SUPPLIES WILL HAVE TO COME IN BY THE SAME ROUTE. THESE PEOPLE ARE PART OF A TOTAL OF 10,000 MOVING DURING THE PAST MONTH, AS PART OF THE GVN GOAL OF RESETTLING 60,000 DISPLACED PERSONS IN QUANG NGAI BY THE END OF 1973.

3. ACCORDING TO SECTOR INTELLIGENCE REPORTS MADE AVAILABLE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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POLOFF QUANG NGAI, NLF COMMANDERS ARE STRENGTHENING LOCAL FORCE

AND GUERRILLA UNITS AND ORDERING LOCAL COMMANDERS TO ACHIEVE MORE RESISTANCE TO GVN ENCROACHMENTS SUCH AS THAT DESCRIBED ABOVE. TWO LOCAL FORCE BATTALIONS WERE REPORTEDLY ISSUED NEW SUPPLIES OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION (INCLUDING 12.7 MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS) AND ARE TO PREPARE ATTACKS IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER UNITS TO DISRUPT THESE GVN TRV PLANS IN BINH SON AND SON TINH DISTRICTS. HOWEVER, ONE OF THE BATTALIONS, IN A RADIO TRANSMISSION MONITORED BY THE GVN, REQUESTED PERMISSION TO WITHDRAW FOR RETRAINING BECAUSE OF BEING UNDER CONTINUOUS PRESSURE DURING THE PAST THREE MONTHS FROM 6 TH RGE., 2 ND ARVN DIV.; THE REQUEST WAS REFUSED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY.

4. LIAISON OFFICER DANANG REPORTS THAT SOME 2,100 PERSONS, ALMOST ENTIRELY QUANG TRI REFUGEES, ARE NOW BEING EMPLOYED BY THE AGENCY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DANANG AREA (ADDA). ONE NEW PROJECT INVOLVES PLANTING TREE SEEDLINGS FOR TRANSPLANTING THIS SEPTEMBER TO THE HAI VAN PASS AREA NORTHWEST OF DANANG. THIS REFORESTATION IS EXPECTED TO PRODUCE AN INCOME RETURN BEGINNING IN ABOUT TEN YEARS.

PART VII MR 2

1. REPORTING PERIOD SAW LIGHT ACTIVITY IN MR 2. ONLY BINH DINH, PHU YEN, BINH THUAN, AND KONTUM REPORTED ANY MILITARY ACTION. GROUND ATTACKS AND ABF' S ON RF AND PF POSITIONS RESULTED IN 20 ENEMY KIA AND 10 RVNAF WIA. IN ADDITION, TWO MINING INCIDENTS IN PHU YEN AND ONE IN BINH DINH BROUGHT THE RVNAF TOTAL OF WIA TO 13.

2. THREE ENEMY TERRORIST INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN BINH THUAN WITHIN LAST FEW DAYS. ON MAY 25, THE VC MORTARED A SCHOOL IN A CATHOLIC RESETTLEMENT HAMLET (THE GVN HAS ALREADY ASKED THE ICCS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS INCIDENT); THE VC DETONATED A MINE ON THE RAILROAD BRIDGE 20 KMS EAST OF SONG MAO FURTHER POSTPONING RAIL TRANSPORTATION FROM PHAN RANG TO SONG MAO WHICH HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO COMMENCE THIS WEEKEND; AND ON MAY 28, VC INFILTRATED A HAMLET AND KIDNAPPED TWO PSDF CADRE, ALSO SEIZING A RIFLE.

3. PHU YEN SECTOR COMMAND REPORTS THAT VC RELEASED THREE ARVN
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SOLDIERS AND ONE RF IN TUY HOA DISTRICT, ALL FOUR HAD BEEN CAPTURED IN PHU YEN ON JULY 23, 1972. AFTER THEIR RELEASE AT AN CHAN VILLAGE TEN KM' S NOTH OF TUY HOA, THE FORMER POW' S TOOK A LAMBRETTA TO SUB- SECTOR HEADQUARTERS WHERE THEY PRESENTED THEMSELVES TO DISTRICT OFFICIALS. THIS WAS SECOND UNILATERAL RELEASE OF POW' S BY VC WITHIN ONE WEEK PERIOD. MOTIVE FOR THE RELEASES REMAINS UNCLEAR.

4. MINPOL BENNETT ACCOMPANIED BY ACTING CG DUNLOP AND EMBOFF FRANCIS CALLED ON MR-2 COMMANDER, MAJ GEN TOAN, MAY 28.

GEN TOAN ACKNOWLEDGED ALERT STATUS OF FORCES IN MR-2, STATING THAT IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL SITUATION (PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO THE KISSINGER- THO TALKS) " WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOW." THE GENERAL INDICATED THAT THE ALERT WOULD BE MAINTAINED INTO JUNE. TOAN VOICED CONFIDENCE THAT HIS FORCES COULD HANDLE ANY COMMUNIST LAND GRAB, BUT HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE CONTINUING ENEMY BUILD- UP, NOTING THAT " THIS WEEK" 250 TRUCKS HAD BEEN SPOTTED MOVING SOUTH TOWARD DUC CO, 50 OF WHICH HE CLAIMED WERE CARRYING TROOPS. TOAN ALSO SAID HE BELIEVED THAT ULTIMATELY, BUT NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, THE COMMUNISTS WILL LAUNCH A MAJOR OFFENSIVE, STATING THAT HE SAW NO OTHER REASON FOR THEIR BUILD- UP.

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 INRE-00

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O 291111 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2320
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE
COMUSMACTHAI
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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5. GEN TOAN ALSO SAID THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE MILITARY ACTIVITY IN KONTUM RECENTLY, INCLUDING ENEMY USE OF 130 MM ARTILLERY. REGARD-

ING REPORTS OF TALKS BETWEEN ARVN AND COMMUNIST MILITARY COMMANDERS IN THAT AREA, GEN TOAN SAID THAT SUCH TALKS HAD " NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED," IMPLYING THAT HE HAD ORDERED THEM STOPPED. CONTACTS BETWEEN OPPOSING COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD MUST NOT RPT NOT BE USED TO " DRAW LINES" OR DELINEATE AREAS OF CONTROL, GEN TOAN ASSERTED. CONFIDENTIAL

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HE ACKNOWLEDGED THEY MAY BE USED TO ACCOMPLISH IMMEDIATE ENDS, SUCH AS TO ALLOW FOR MEDEVAC OR RESUPPLY IN A GIVEN TACTICAL SITUATION.

6. POLOFF DARLAC REPORTS BITTER EXCHANGES BETWEEN CANADIANS AND POLES IN ARRIVING AT A 2-2 SPLIT DECISION ON APRIL 12 INCIDENT INVOLVING DEATH OF 9 PERSONS ACCOMPANYING A LOGGING TRUCK. INDONESIANS WERE HELPFUL AND SHARP, HUNGARIANS RATHER PASSIVE, BUT DIVISION BETWEEN BLOCS IN BAN ME THUOT IS NOW COMPLETE WITH NO AMITY WHATSOEVER BEYOND BASIC COURTESIES.

7. IN BINH THUAN CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS QUESTIONED THE CONFESSED THROWER OF MAY 20 GRENADE WHICH KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED 22, WHILE THE HUNGARIANS AND POLES CONTEND INCIDENT IS POLICE MATTER.

PART VIII MR 3

1. DURING PERIOD ENDING AT 0800 MAY 29 THERE WERE 17 INCIDENTS IN MR 3, 6 ABF'S, 7 GROUND ATTACKS, 3 MINE/ BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS AND 1 ABDUCTION. MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT OCCURRED ALONG LTL 14 SOUTHWEST OF PHU GIAO IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE WHERE ELEMENTS OF THE 7 TH NVA DIV., INTERDICTED THE HIGHWAY. IN A FIRE FIGHT WITH ELEMENTS OF THE 9 TH REG. 5 TH ARVN DIV., 20 NVA WERE KILLED AND 1 CAPTURED AND A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS DESTROYED. HIGHWAY HAS SINCE BEEN REOPENED. IN LONG AN PROVINCE A COMPANY SIZE VC/ NVA FORCE ATTACKED A PATROL OF AN RF BATTALION 8 KILOMETERS NORTHEAST OF BINH PHUOC. RESULTS WERE 7 VC KILLED AND A QUANTITY OF WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT CAPTURED.

2. TAN AN ICCS TEAM HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY

FOR INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED GVN CEASEFIRE VIOLATION APRIL 27 IN DUC HOA DISTRICT, HAU NGHIA. GVN IS SAID TO HAVE KILLED 39 PEOPLE WITH SHELLING BY 155 MM HOWITZER ON VAN CO DONG RIVER NEAR LONG AN BORDER. AREA OF ALLEGED VIOLATION IS REGARDED BY GVN AS BEING UNDER ITS CONTROL, AND GVN THEREFORE LIKELY TO RESIST INVESTIGATION AS CONTRARY TO ITS CONCEPT OF AGREEMENT AS CEASE-FIRE IN PLACE.

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3. CANADIANS ARE SAYING 20 POLISH INTERPRETERS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME FOR IDEOLOGICAL DEVIATIONS, CONSISTING OF BEING TOO FRIENDLY WITH NON- COMMUNIST DELEGATIONS, US, OR GVN; OR INTERRUPTUNG THEIR OWN INTERPRETATIONS OF SPECIOUS POLISH ARGUMENTS TO COMMENT ON IMPLAUSIBILITY OF SAME.

4. DESPITE ICCS PROBLEMS, IT IS POPULAR IN MR 3. A RECENT POLL BY MOBILE DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH TEAM IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN MR 3 REVEALED HIGH AWARENESS AND GENERAL UNDERSTANDING OF PRESENCE AND ROLE OF ICCS; GENERAL BELIEF THAT IT HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE AND GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF REASONS WHY, AND OVERWHELMING (91 PERCENT) PREFERENCE THAT IT REMAIN. DESPITE ITS PROBLEMS, RESPONDENTU THOUGHT THAT PRESENCE OF ICCS HAD INHIBITED FIGHTING SOMEWHAT, AND THAT DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY BC FOR ITS WORK HAD, BY CONTRAST, SHOWN WORLD THE GOODWILL OF THE GVN.

PART IX MR 4

1. THE RISE IN MR 4 MILITARY ACTIVITY WHICH BEGAN OVER THE WEEKEND CONTINUED PAST MEMORIAL DAY. THE DELTA REPORTED 53 COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS MAY 28-29 INCLUDING EIGHT GROUND ASSAULTS, 28 ABF'S, TEN HARASSMENTS, AND SEVEN ACTS OF TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE. FIFTEEN RVNAF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED, 102 WOUNDED, AND ONE MISSING. ARVN SPOKESMEN CLAIMED 52 COMMUNIST DEAD AND ONE CAPTURED. CHUONG THIEN WAS AGAIN THE FAVORITE VC/ NVA TARGET.

2. THE VC MINI- OFFENSIVE WHICH BEGAN APRIL 30 IN SOUTHERN VINH LONG CONTINUES. THE VC ARE TRYING TO CONSOLIDATE AND STRENGTHEN THEIR POSITION IN TRA ON, TAM BINH, AND VUNG LIEM DISTRICTS; TO PROTECT AN IMPORTANT COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON ROUTE; AND PERHAPS TO REESTABLISH THEIR OLD BASE AREA IN VINH XUAN VILLAGE, TRA ON DISTRICT-- IN PAST YEARS THE LOCUS OF MANY B-52 STRIKES. REPEATED VC ATTACKS ON PATROLLING RF AND PF UNITS, AND ON PF OUTPOSTS, RESULTED IN THE MAY 14 DEPLOYMENT OF TWO 9 TH DIV BATTALIONS TO TRA ON DISTRICT. THESE UNITS ARE STILL IN PLACE. OPPOSING VC UNITS INCLUDE THE D-3 REGIMENT AND AT LEAST THREE PROVINCE AND DISTRICT BATTALIONS. THE TRA ON SITUATION HAS IMPROVED SINCE THE ARVN ARRIVED, BUT 9 TH DIV COMMANDER MGEN TRAN BI DI FEARS DETERIORATION WHEN HIS UNITS LEAVE. BOTH HE AND MR 4
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COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN VINH NGHI HAVE CRITICIZED VINH LONG TERRITORIAL FORCE MALDEPLOYMENT AND LACK OF AGGRESSIVENESS. THE NEWLY APPOINTED COMMANDER FOR RF FORCES IN THE AREA HAS REPLACED WEARY, REMOTELY- POSITIONED RF WITH FRESH MEN. IF THE VC SUCCEED IN PERMANENTLY NEUTRALIZING GVN POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN VINH LONG, THEY WILL BE ABLE TO LAY CONVINCING CLAIM TO A " LIBERATED" AREA FROM WHICH-- DESPITE ARDUOUS GVN PACIFICATION EFFORTS-- THEY WERE NEVER TRULY EXPELLED.

3. 7 TH DIV COMMANDER MGEN NGUYEN KHOA NAM TOLD A VICE CONSUL IN MY THO THAT HIS DIVISION' S CASUALTIES IN APRIL 1973 WERE 3 1/2 TIMES HIGHER THAN DURING THE FIRST MONTH OF THE VC/ NVA OFFENSIVE ONE YEAR AGO. LAST MONTH HIS DIVISION SUFFERED 290 CASUALTIES COMPARED TO ONLY ABOUT 80 IN APRIL 1972. NAM SAID ABOUT 70 PERCENT OF HIS WOUNDED PERSONNEL RETURN TO DUTY. BOOBY TRAPS CAUSED ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF DIVISION CASUALTIES. THE VC ARE ADEPT AT PLANTING SUCH DEVICES JUST AHEAD OF HIS ADVANCING TROOPS, WHO HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHING OUTPOSTS IN CONTESTED AREAS OF DINH TUONG. VC/ NVA TACTICS, HOWEVER, HAVE BACKFIRED AS WELL. NAM ESTIMATES 70 PERCENT OF VC/ NVA CASUALTIES ARE CAUSED BY THEIR OWN BOOBY TRAPS.

4. THE REGION VII VI THANH GVN JMC HELD A SURPRISE PARTY FOR THE ICCS MAY 25. THE VIETNAMESE INVITED THE FOUR DELEGATIONS TO A LATE MORNING RECEPTION TO MEET A " DISTINGUISHED CIVILIAN VISITOR". ALL FOUR DELEGATIONS ATTENDED, INCLUDING THE REGION VII POLISH AND HUNGARIAN CHIEFS AND A POLISH COLONEL FROM SAIGON WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN TOWN. THE GVN' S MYSTERY GUEST TURNED OUT TO BE NONE OTHER THAN NGUYEN HONG QUI, AN NVA FIRST LIEUTENANT CAPTURED MAY 20. LT. QUI, WHO HAD BEEN A DEPUTY COMPANY COMMANDER IN THE 18- B REGIMENT, MADE A STATEMENT ADMITTING WHO HE WAS, THAT HE HAD INFILTRATED AFTER THE CEASEFIRE, AND THAT THE NVA WAS CONTINUING TO SUPPLY THE VIET CONG WITH MEN AND MATERIAL. THE CHAGRINED AND ANGRY POLES AND HUNGARIANS DECIDED IT WAS TIME FOR LUNCH AND LEFT. THE CANADIANS AND INDONESIANS PLAN TO INTERVIEW THE PRISONER FORMALLY AT A LATER DATE. THEIR COMMUNIST COLLEAGUES, PREDICTABLY, HAVE INDICATED THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. CONGEN CAN THO COMMENTS THAT THE REGION VII GVN JMC IS PLEASED AS PUNCH ABOUT ITS LITTLE STUNT. SUCH SHENANIGANS, HOWEVER, WILL ONLY REINFORCE POLGARIAN SUSPICIONS THAT THE CANDESIANS ARE IN CAHOOTS WITH THE GVN AS THEY THEMSELVES ARE WITH THE PRG.
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OTTAWA
PHNOM PENH
JEC PARIS

VIENTIANE
WARSAW
DANANG
NHA TRANG
BIEN HOA
CAN THO
CINCPAC
CDRUSSAG NKP RTAFB
COMUSMACTHAI
USDO SAIGON
FPJMT SAIGON

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